



Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement
801 North First Street, Room 400
San José, California 95110-1795

Hearing Date/Agenda Number:
P.C. Nov. 29, 2004 Item: 7.b.1 & 2

File Number:
GP04-03-04 & GPT04-03-04

Council District and SNI Area:
District 3, Spartan Keyes SNI

Major Thoroughfares Map Number:
Quad 83

Assessor's Parcel Number(s):
N/A (Public Right-Of-Way)

Project Manager: Juan F. Borrelli, AICP

GENERAL PLAN REPORT

2004 Fall Hearing

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

General Plan amendment (GP04-03-04) request to change the Land Use/Transportation Diagram on the segment of South 7th Street, between Interstate 280 and Keyes Street, from "Major Collector – 4 Lanes" to "Major Collector – 2 Lanes." An associated General Plan Text amendment (GPT04-03-04) request would revise Appendix E of the General Plan Text to be consistent with the proposed amendment to the Land Use/Transportation Diagram.

LOCATION: South 7th Street, from Interstate 280 to Keyes Street

ACREAGE: Not applicable.

APPLICANT/OWNER:

City of San José

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE / TRANSPORTATION DIAGRAM DESIGNATION:

Existing Designation: Major Collector – 4 Lanes

Proposed Designation: Major Collector – 2 Lanes

EXISTING ZONING DISTRICT(S): N/A (Public Right-Of-Way)

SURROUNDING LAND USES AND GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION(S):

North: Interstate 280 and Single-Family Residential

South: Single-Family Residential and Neighborhood Commercial

East: Single-Family Residential and Neighborhood Commercial

West: Single-Family Residential and Neighborhood Commercial

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS:

Negative Declaration to be adopted on November 29, 2004.

PLANNING STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Major Collector – 2 Lanes

Approved by:

Date:

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

CITY COUNCIL ACTION:

CITY DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC AGENCY COMMENTS RECEIVED:

- Department of Transportation (DOT) – DOT completed analysis for the proposed General Plan amendment using the City’s transportation computer model (TRANPLAN). The computer model analysis result indicates that the proposed General Plan amendment would NOT result in traffic impacts that exceed the established significance thresholds. Therefore, DOT concluded that the long-term traffic impacts resulting from the proposed network changes are less than significant.
- Department of Public Works (DPW) – The Transportation and Development Services Division of the DPW indicated that the subject site is NOT in any of the following zones: a Flood Zone, a Geological Hazard Zone, a State Landslide Zone, a State Liquefaction Zone; and the subject site does NOT have: Inadequate Sanitary Capacity, Inadequate Storm Capacity, or Major Access Constraints.
- San José Fire Department (SJFD) – SJFD has no comments regarding the proposed General Plan amendment because there is no impact on access.
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) – SCVWD has no comments regarding the proposed General Plan amendment.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE:

- Spartan Keyes Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) – One letter was received from the Spartan Keyes SNI NAC that describes the proposed General Plan amendment as a change that would reflect how the existing land configuration functions and allow the San José’s General Plan to support the community’s actions to keep Spartan Keyes a livable community. Further, the NAC indicates that approval of this proposed amendment would support the Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan’s Top Ten Priority Action Item #2: “Prepare and Implement a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan,” and overall, it would affirm the City’s commitment to implement the Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan. The Spartan Keyes SNI NAC voted to fully support the proposed General Plan amendment and General Plan Text amendment. A copy of this letter is attached.
 - Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Association (NA) – One letter was received from the Spartan Keyes NA, which indicates that traffic calming on South 7th Street has always been a major concern for the neighborhood. Further, the Spartan Keyes NA indicates that this proposed General Plan amendment project is “a step in the right direction” toward calming traffic and creating a pedestrian-friendly environment along South 7th Street. The Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Association (NA) is in full support of the proposed General Plan amendment and General Plan Text amendment. A copy of this letter is attached.
 - Spartan Keyes Resident Letter – One letter was received from Spartan Keyes resident Mr. Tom Boehme, who lives along the proposed project corridor at 920 South 7th Street. Mr. Boehme indicates that he personally supports the proposed General Plan amendment, because if the segment were ever redeveloped as a 4-lane Major Collector, it would not be compatible with the predominantly single-family residential character along the corridor, and it would worsen parking and traffic conditions for the families that live along that segment of South 7th Street. A copy of his letter is attached.
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ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends a change to the General Plan Land Use/Transportation Diagram designation for the segment of South 7th Street between Interstate 280 and Keyes Street, from Major Collector – 4 Lanes to Major Collector – 2 Lanes. Approval of this General Plan amendment would keep South 7th Street as a Major Collector and would preserve the existing 2-lane street configuration with existing bike lanes and on-street parking along both sides.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a City staff-initiated General Plan amendment request to change the General Plan Land Use/Transportation Diagram designation from Major Collector – 4 Lanes to Major Collector – 2 Lanes for the public right-of-way of South 7th Street, from Interstate 280 to Keyes Street. The proposed amendment would not involve any construction, demolition, re-alignment, excavation, or other physical change to the existing public street. An associated General Plan Text amendment proposal (GPT04-03-04) would revise Appendix E of the General Plan Text to be consistent with the amendment to the Land Use/Transportation Diagram.



BACKGROUND

A major concern of neighborhood residents is the volume and perceived speed of traffic within the Spartan Keyes area. The proximity of the neighborhood to Interstate 280, Highway 101, San José State University, and Spartan Stadium results in a significant amount of non-local through traffic. Circulation and parking improvement recommendations within the adopted *Spartan Keyes Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI) Neighborhood Improvement Plan* are focused on improving neighborhood-oriented vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle circulation, and preserving on-street parking for residents during special events.

As part of the South 7th Street Truck Traffic Workplan, which is led by a subgroup of the Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) working with DOT staff, a key recommendation is the reduction of vehicular capacity of South 7th Street from a Major Collector – 4 Lanes to a Major Collector – 2 Lanes. Originally, it was thought by the community that the *Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan* “Top Ten” Action Item #2, which states “Prepare and Implement a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan,” or that other action items contained within the *Martha Gardens Specific Plan* would automatically trigger the proposed change. However, this action item requires a General Plan amendment. As part of the environmental review for the proposed change, DOT completed a traffic assessment and verified that the change would not cause a significant impact.

ANALYSIS

This proposed project is consistent with both the adopted *Martha Gardens Specific Plan* and the adopted *Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan*. These plans promote a vision that unifies the disparate residential areas of Spartan Keyes into a safer, more livable, and truly unique neighborhood. While South 7th Street is not specifically included within the *Martha Gardens Specific Plan* area, changing the designation of the roadway segment from a 4-lane Major Collector to a 2-lane Major Collector is nonetheless consistent with the vision of that specific plan. Key elements of the *Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan* that are intended to achieve the vision, which this proposed project would help implement, include:

1. Preserve and enhance the character of established residential areas;
2. Calm traffic throughout the neighborhood and discourage cut-through traffic on local neighborhood streets;
3. Calm traffic by using a combination of techniques, including physical design measures and policy changes that would reduce the negative impact of vehicular traffic, thereby improving street conditions for all users;
4. Improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation within the neighborhood and to adjacent districts and nearby destinations, including safe routes for children and students to the Lowell Elementary School located immediately north of Interstate 280 at South 7th Street and to the nearby San José State University;
5. Increase the availability of safe bicycle routes, both within the Spartan Keyes area and to public and recreational facilities outside the neighborhood; and
6. Improve conditions beneath and adjacent to freeways to increase safety and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

This proposed amendment would help implement the *Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan*, is consistent with the *Martha Gardens Specific Plan*, and would help calm traffic in the surrounding neighborhood. Further, it would help to implement other City of San José General Plan policies that enhance existing neighborhoods.

In addition, residents in the University Neighborhood, north of Spartan Keyes, have identified South 7th Street as one of the “key pedestrian corridors” for their area. Implementing pedestrian improvements along South 7th Street is a Top Ten Priority Project within the University SNI Neighborhood Improvement Plan. The current General Plan designation for South 7th Street in the University Neighborhood, from Interstate 280 to East Reed Street, is Major Collector – 2 Lanes. This General Plan Land Use/Transportation Diagram designation, and ultimately, physical streetscape improvements that promote South 7th Street as a pedestrian corridor should be extended into Spartan Keyes to provide continuity and strengthen the connection between the two neighborhoods.

South 7th Street is a primary corridor for truck traffic accessing the industrial area located south of Humbolt Street. The proposed General Plan amendment would not affect the use of South 7th Street for truck traffic. The proposed amendment is intended to preclude future widening of the street in order to maintain the current multi-modal characteristics of the street that serve walking, biking, and driving. As a separate item unrelated to this proposed General Plan amendment, DOT staff is conducting ongoing public outreach with a subcommittee of the Spartan Keyes SNI NAC and the industrial stakeholders located south of Spartan Keyes to try to reach a consensus on how to address truck traffic in the neighborhood.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed change to the General Plan Land Use/Transportation Diagram designation and its associated General Plan Text amendment were analyzed in an Initial Study that resulted in a Negative Declaration. The Initial Study concluded that the proposed designation change from a 4-lane Major Collector to a 2-lane Major Collector for South 7th Street, from Interstate 280 to Keyes Street, would have a less than significant long-term environmental impact. No mitigation measures are required to reduce the impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level.

Transportation/Traffic

The San José DOT completed an analysis for the proposed project using the City’s computer model (TRANPLAN). The City utilizes the long-term traffic model analysis (TRANPLAN) for evaluation of impacts of General Plan amendments, rather than near-term intersection analysis, because such General Plan amendments have long-term effects that may not be realized in the near-term. The results of this analysis indicated that the proposed project would not result in traffic impacts that exceed the established significance thresholds. Therefore, long-term traffic impacts that would result from the proposed project are less than significant.

All future projects developed in the vicinity of this street segment will be required to conform to the City’s Level of Service Policy, to ensure that they do not result in a substantial increase in near-term traffic impacts. This project will not affect the availability of parking, because all

existing street parking will remain. Overall, the traffic impacts that would result from the proposed project are less than significant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The property owners and occupants within a 1,000-foot radius were sent a Public Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration, the Draft Negative Declaration, and a Notice of Public Hearings to be held on the subject amendment before the Planning Commission on November 29, 2004 and City Council on December 14, 2004. In addition, the Planning Division's website contains information regarding the General Plan Process, amendments, staff reports, and public hearing schedules. This site is available to any member of the public and contains the most current information regarding the status of the amendments. Staff has also made itself available to discuss the proposed General Plan amendment on an individual meeting-basis with property owners and members of the public.

SNI Outreach

Staff distributed a Proposed General Plan Amendment Summary Handout (see attached) for the proposed project and presented the proposed General Plan amendment at the scheduled monthly Spartan Keyes SNI NAC Meeting on November 8, 2004. This public meeting was well attended by over thirty NAC Members, property owners, residents and community stakeholders. The Spartan Keyes SNI NAC is in full support of the proposed General Plan amendment and General Plan Text amendment (see attached Spartan Keyes NAC letter).

Attachments

General Plan Amendment Map

Proposed General Plan Text change to Appendix E

Spartan Keyes SNI Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) Letter

Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Association (NA) Letter

Spartan Keyes Resident Letter from Mr. Tom Boehme

Staff Memoranda from:

Department of Transportation (DOT)

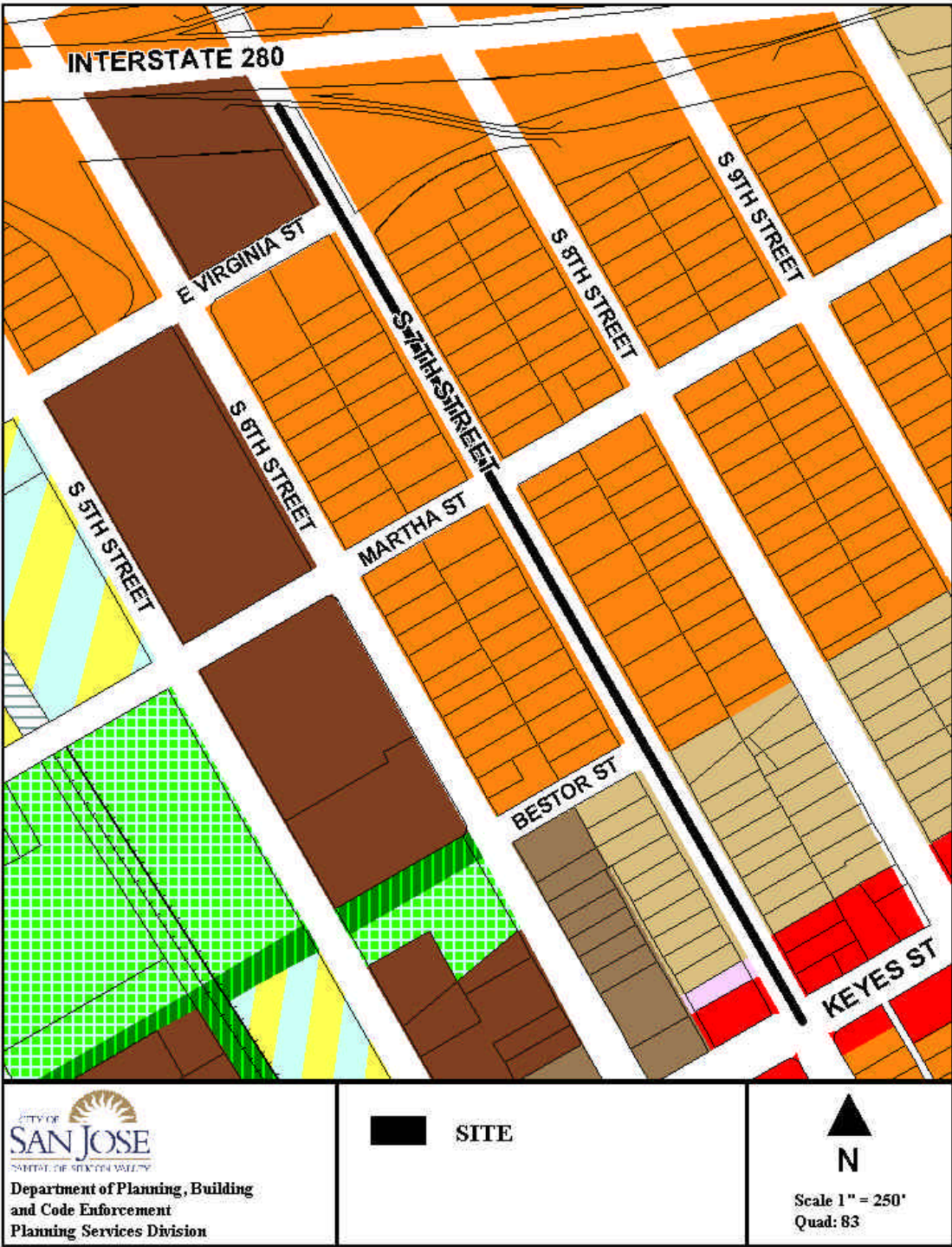
Department of Public Works (DPW)

San José Fire Department

Proposed General Plan Amendment Summary Handout

Negative Declaration

GP04-03-04 AND GPT04-03-04



Proposed General Plan Text change to Appendix E:

APPENDIX E MAJOR COLLECTOR STREETS

Street Name	Number of Travel Lanes Planned for Year 2020
N. 1 st St.	Two Lanes
2 nd St.	Three Lanes from Hwy. 280 to San Carlos St. (existing). Two Lanes and One LRT from San Carlos St. to St. James St. Three Lanes from St. James St. to Jackson St.
S. 7 th St.	Two Lanes from Hwy. 280 to E. Reed St. Four Lanes from Hwy. 280 to Curtner Ave. <u>Two Lanes from Hwy. 280 to Keyes St.</u> <u>Four Lanes from Keyes St. to Curtner Ave.</u>